

# PARTYGOERS TRASH HALIFAX TOWNSHOUSE, PG 2

## Celebrity Buzz

**Mel's new girlfriend pregnant already?**

pg 22



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HALIFAX • WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2009

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## Jim Nunn retiring after election

**TV** A well known Nova Scotia news anchor is calling it a career after next month's provincial election.

The CBC announced yesterday Jim Nunn, anchor of the CBC News: Nova Scotia at Six, is retiring following the public broadcaster's coverage of the June 9 vote.

Nunn, 58, has accepted an incentive program offered to long-service CBC employees as part of the CBC's deficit reduction program.

The Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program is offered to any employee whose combined years of service and age equal 85 or more. Nunn has been with the CBC since 1980.

"We've had tremendous success in the last couple of years, so I leave on a high note," Nunn told Metro Halifax.

Nunn became anchor of CBC's one-hour news broadcast in September, 2007. He also held the position from 1982 to 1995.

METRO HALIFAX

## Sunny Side



Follow Metro's SunnySide initiative as we help you find the good news around Halifax and Canada. This is also a Call to Action for you to send us your suggestions at halifaxletters@metronews.ca, metronews.ca or on Twitter @metrohalifax.

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Today

• German sailors support Terry Fox Foundation, pg 3  
• Business bankruptcies on the decline, pg 7



RYAN TAPLIN/STAFF/HALIFAX

NDP Leader Darrell Dexter, from left, Premier Rodney MacDonald and Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil have a laugh before the start of last night's election debate.

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## NDP keeps widening lead over Grits: Poll

PAUL MCLEOD  
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

**POLITICS** Darrell Dexter's NDP has widened its lead and looks set to form Nova Scotia's new government, according to the latest poll by Corporate Research Associates.

The NDP came in at 37 per cent support for decided or leaning voters in the poll released yesterday, with the Liberals second at 31 per cent and the Tories third at 28 per cent.

This is good news for the NDP, who gained one percentage point, and the Liberals who stayed steady since the last poll in March. The Progressive Conservatives fell back two percentage points.

Though the Liberals maintain second place in the poll, CRA president Don Mills predicts the Liberals will narrowly finish third in the June 9 election because their support is concentrated in Cape Breton.

Mills predicts the NDP, with its dominant support in the Halifax Regional Municipality, will win a minority government.

He said the real writing on the wall for the Tories is only 45 per cent of respondents were satisfied with their government.

"In more than 20 years of doing political polling around elections we've never seen an incumbent party regain power with numbers below 50 per cent," Mills said.

Premier Rodney MacDonald's personal popularity fell from 27 to 20 per cent. Both Dexter (30 per cent) and Stephen McNeil (24 per cent) were up two points from the March poll.

# 20

There are just 20 days left before the June 9 election.

## Notable quotables

- Rodney MacDonald on the NDP selling out to unions: "What you would see with the NDP is having the same two people negotiating on the same side of the table."
- Darrell Dexter on the Conservative legacy: "This is going to be the great legacy of the Conservative government. The reality is that despite the fact they talk about balanced budgets they produced a budget that ran the province deeply into deficit and debt."
- Stephen McNeil on the justice system: "There's been all kinds of challenges and each and every time this government says they're going to do an internal review. Well that's one long review. The longer we wait, another person decides they're going to leave and walk out."
- Rodney MacDonald on why he's opposed to lowering the fuel tax: "We'd all love to cut every tax. We'd love to eliminate the fuel tax. But the reality is we need those dollars for our roads."
- Darrell Dexter on the Liberals abolishing the Industrial Expansion Fund: "I seem to remember Mr. McNeil saying he was going to get rid of this fund. He's changed his mind now; maybe that's just a matter of inexperience."
- Stephen McNeil on the NDP honouring promises: "It simply can't happen. There is no way there is a single Nova Scotian today who believes that they can balance the budget."

Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil, who saw the least fire of the three, also saved much of his attention for Dexter.

He repeatedly attacked the NDP plan to remove HST from home heating electricity.

"It's interesting; the

president of Nova Scotia Power endorsed it. When was the last time the president of Nova Scotia Power endorsed anything that was good for Nova Scotians?" asked McNeil.

At one point Dexter responded to McNeil's criticism with laughter, saying he couldn't understand why McNeil supports more taxes for seniors and the poor. Dexter attacked the Tories for their fiscal mismanagement, saying the legacy of the Rodney MacDonald Conservatives is driving the province into deficit.

He also came out with a new commitment to not raise taxes.

"We're not going to raise taxes. In fact, the ironic thing about the charges of my opponents is that we're actually the party that, consistently, over the last number of elections have said we want to make life more affordable for ordinary Nova Scotians in this province," said Dexter.

# Debatable debate

Leaders stick to the script in discussion over provincial issues

PAUL MCLEOD  
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## At times it felt like three press conferences held side by side.

The first provincial election debate is in the books with all three leaders looking well rehearsed and sticking close to script.

Just hours after a poll placed Darrell Dexter in first place, the NDP leader caught much of the fire yesterday.

Premier Rodney MacDonald repeated the charge seven times that the NDP had no plan and said they were making promises they couldn't keep.

"The greatest risk to Nova Scotia is a politician who says he will do everything for them but says nothing about how he'll pay for it. And that's what you will do, Mr. Dexter," said MacDonald as Dexter shook his head and repeated, "That's not true."

The Keshen Goodman Public Library in Clayton Park will host the Teen Poetry and Spoken Word Awards Friday at 6 p.m., a news release says. More than 280 students submitted entries to the contest, following workshops hosted by local artists throughout the spring. METRO HALIFAX

# Local



## Backyardigans to perform live show

Some colourful characters will soon be in our backyard. Sonic Concerts announced yesterday The Backyardigans, of *Treehouse TV* fame, will bring their live theatrical show, *Sea Deep in Adventure*, to the Metro Centre in Halifax on the afternoon of Oct. 18. Tickets will be available this Saturday at the Ticket Atlantic box office, at all participating Atlantic Superstores or by calling 451-1221. METRO HALIFAX

# House party gets out of hand

Six tenants facing possible eviction after partygoers trash their home

GOFF DAVIES  
for Metro Halifax

**The tenants of a Duncan Street townhouse in Halifax are licking their wounds and facing eviction after throwing a party that has left them in a tricky legal situation.**

The six roommates hosted a party last Saturday night that was packed "wall to wall, front to back," Andrew Zwicker, one of the tenants, told Metro Halifax yesterday. He said things got out of hand when some of the 200 or more partygoers started tearing down the drywall. When the hosts tried to shut it down, they claim they were attacked.

"I got a three-inch gash in the side of my head, another one back here, and my eyebrow was split open ... right down to my skull," said Mario, a tenant who asked his last name not be used. He and two of his other roommates went



Mario, a tenant at a Duncan Street townhouse in Halifax who didn't want his last name used, talks with Metro Halifax yesterday about a weekend party that got out of control.

to hospital that night, with injuries ranging from broken ribs to stab wounds.

Both the landlord and the tenants estimate the damages cost about a few

thousand dollars. The question now is who will pay, since the current tenants have no official lease agreement with the landlord.

"We have to leave,"

Zwicker said. "(The landlord) said get your damages fixed and get out."

According to the landlord, the current tenants have already been evicted. "I never rented to them

... I kind of inherited them," said Steve Metledge.

The current tenants, he said, came to the house one-by-one over the past several months, as past tenants made deals under-the-table to sublet without his knowledge. He said he served the current tenants with an eviction notice a few weeks ago, shortly after discovering the dealings.

The current tenants, however, say all their dealings were done directly with Metledge.

"We never were put on a lease," Mario said. "(Metledge) took money from us individually and gave us individual receipts."

Metledge said the matter could be settled as early as next week, at an emergency hearing before the Provincial Residential Tenancies Board.

Halifax Regional Police arrested one person for public intoxication from the party.

## Man woken by robbers in his home

**CRIME** A group of males broke into a Timberlea home early yesterday morning, taking someone who was asleep inside by surprise, police said.

Cpl. Joe Taplin of Halifax RCMP said officers responded to an emergency call from the Sprucebrook Lane address at about 3:45 a.m. He said three or four males dressed in black had "kicked the door in" and walked right into the house.

The male occupant of the home came down the hallway, where he was punched and then pepper-sprayed, Taplin said. "He actually made his way back to the bedroom (and) locked the door."

He said police believe the culprits then ran away, without stealing anything from the home.

Taplin said the resident, who was caught off guard during the home invasion did the right thing.

"Of course you hear a noise in the house and you go out to see what's happening and that's when he got assaulted," Taplin said. "He got away from them and called 9-1-1."

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/  
METRO HALIFAX

## RCMP seek more info on cab driver's death

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE  
Metro Halifax

**INVESTIGATION** The Mounties are looking for more information about the circumstances surrounding the death of Dartmouth cab driver Sergei Kostin.

Halifax RCMP spokesman Cpl. Joe Taplin said officers will be running two information checkpoints today, one at Crane Hill and Lake Major Road and the other at Upper Governor Road off Highway 7, "in order to get information out to the public, especially North Preston residents."

The 40-year-old man's body was found near North Preston last month, not far from where his

burned-out taxi turned up in January.

Kostin, originally from the Ukraine, went missing Jan. 17 after picking up a fare at a variety store on Gaston Road.

"We're also going to be doing some door-to-door canvassing as well," Taplin said yesterday.

He said police officers will be handing out pamphlets that include a photo of Kostin, a photo of his Chevrolet Impala, his cab number, a timeline of his disappearance and descriptions of "the possible two suspects that might be involved in the homicide who were last seen getting into the cab."

"We're trying to identify those two individuals," Taplin said.

## Grandma loses her home

**FIRE** Joanne Mackie endured a swing of emotions Monday night few can relate to.

The 37-year-old was in the delivery room for the birth of her second grandchild at 7:52 p.m. About two hours later a text message said the mobile home Mackie had lived in last summer was on fire near Stewiacke.

"You are on such a high from that miracle itself, then seeing this baby that's perfect in every way. We were still on that high when we got the text and then you crash right down to the lowest," Mackie said.

"If I had a choice whether to lose all my stuff or have a healthy little grandchild, I'd lose my stuff in a heartbeat. I wouldn't even give a second thought to it."

About 25 firefighters from Stewiacke, Brookfield, Shubenacadie, Indian Brook and Milford responded to the fire, which was reported around 10:15 p.m. by a passing motorist.



Fire destroyed a mobile home in the Stewiacke area late Monday night. No one was home at the time of the fire.

Stewiacke fire Chief John Frizzell said the structure was fully involved when the first members arrived. The site contained two mobile homes and a shed. The fire started in one of the mobile homes and spread to the other structures.

No one was living in the mobile homes at the time

of the fire and there was no power to the structure.

Mackie's cousin owns the homes and allowed her to stay there. Mackie lived in the mobile home from May to October of 2008. She couch-surfed for the winter and was preparing to move back into the mobile home for the summer.

TRURO DAILY NEWS

## Cops seek pair for late-night robbery

**CRIME** A couple of knife-carrying assailants attacked and then snatched some cash from two boys last night in Cole Harbour, police said.

Halifax RCMP spokesman Cpl. Joe Taplin said officers were called to the robbery on Forest Hills Drive at 8:30 p.m. The assailants were both wearing bandanas over their faces, Taplin said.

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/  
METRO HALIFAX

## News in brief

**CORRECTION** Murder victim Tanya Brooks attended Cunard Learning Centre on Maitland Street, through the Halifax Community Learning Network,

before she died. Incorrect information appeared in Tuesday's edition of Metro Halifax.

METRO HALIFAX

**Blogs** It's Called Football welcomes CSL commissioner Cary Kaplan to discuss the league's expansion and Sex-cessita asks the experts why we're so fascinated by the affairs of the rich and famous.



## Saint Mary's students honoured with archaeology scholarships

Two Saint Mary's University students are receiving the 2009 Placide Rivette Family Archaeology Award, the Halifax school said yesterday. Emily Redden and Kyle Cigolotti are getting the \$500 scholarships for their work through the university's Grand Pre Archaeological Field School program. **METRO HALIFAX**

Province plans to study up on absenteeism in local schools

**STUDENTS** Education Minister Judy Streatch revealed yesterday the province will conduct a review on why students are spending less time in the classroom.

"Chronic student absenteeism is a huge concern for teachers," Nova Scotia Teachers Union president Alexis Allen said in a release. The review will look at ways to improve conditions in schools, such as by fostering good behaviour, and will evaluate current legislation.

The committee will be chaired by former deputy minister Howard Windsor, who acted as the one-man Halifax regional school board for a couple of years, and will be made up of several public education stakeholders. Public input will also be considered.

Streatch said she wants the review to be done in time for the new school year this fall. **METRO HALIFAX**

Young filmmakers nab \$40,000 prize, exposure on CBC

**FILM** Two aspiring Halifax filmmakers can start making movie magic now that they've won the 2009 Bridge Award, which recognizes new talent.

Kevin Kincaid and Rebecca Sharratt were selected by a panel of industry experts and will begin producing films that will be shown on CBC television, a Film Nova Scotia news release says.

The projects will receive \$20,000 each from Film Nova Scotia and an equal amount in licences services from the CBC.

Sharratt is working on What Remains, a story about a "complex relationships" within a family facing illness, while Kincaid's project is called titled Bernard the Magician, a film that follows a boy obsessed with magic who redeems himself after a life being bullied. **METRO HALIFAX**

## News in brief

**FIRE** Two Halifax Regional Police officers were injured in a house fire in Dartmouth Monday afternoon. The officers were called to the area of Bras d'Or Lane at about 5:30 p.m. The officers went into the home looking for people and put out a small fire, police say. One officer suffered a minor burn to his hand and both suffered from smoke inhalation. Both were treated at hospital and released. **METRO HALIFAX**

# German sailors aid cancer research

80 Navy officers docked in Halifax run 10K to support Terry Fox Foundation

**SunnySide**   
COLIN CHISHOLM  
for Metro Halifax

Almost 80 sailors from the German Navy were out stretching their legs yesterday before a run along the Halifax boardwalk.

The run was in support of the Terry Fox Foundation, raising money to help cure cancer.

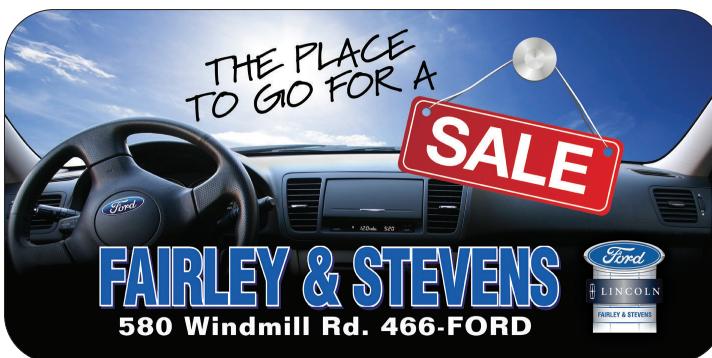
Patrick Sieweke is a crew member aboard the German Frigate Sachsen, now docked in Halifax harbour. The ship will remain in our city until tomorrow, when it heads back to European waters.

"I found out about the Terry Fox Foundation on my ship — somebody put a few letters on the wall — and I just really wanted to be a part of it," he said.

Sieweke chatted with his fellow crew mem-



Sailors from the German Frigate Sachsen joined a 10-kilometre run in support of the Terry Fox Foundation yesterday in Halifax.



**"I found out about the (foundation) ... and I just really wanted to be a part of it."**

Patrick Sieweke

jacks and other warm-ups before the 10-kilometre run.

According to Lt. Alexander Timpf, the Sachsen (Saxony in English) is named after a state in Germany, like other vessels in its class.

It is a state-of-the-art warship for the German Navy, and crew members train "at least once every day, with fire drills and other procedures," Timpf said.

But they also have time to play table tennis in the hangar decks "as long as there aren't any helicopters."

The amount raised at this run has not yet been tabulated, but during their last visit to Halifax the sailors raised \$5,000 for the charity.

Overall, the foundation has topped more than \$400-million, a number much higher than what Terry Fox had originally hoped for, which was one dollar for every Canadian.

## HRM councillors take swing at provincial vote

**PAUL MCLEOD**  
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca 

If regional council is the political minor leagues, we might soon see some politicians making the jump to the majors.

Four Halifax Regional councillors have entered the provincial election for June 9. Eastern Shore —

**"If I was in it for the money, I'd be going back to the private sector."**

Coun. Andrew Younger

are running for the Progressive Conservatives.

Albro Lake — Harbourside Coun. Jim Smith and East Dartmouth — The Lakes Coun. Andrew Younger have thrown their hats in for the Liberals.

It's a low-risk move, as councillors can keep their jobs while campaigning. But they say being tied to council and committee meetings can be a disadvantage while on the cam-

paign trail.

"Absolutely it does (make things harder)," Younger said. "Certainly I can't get out of the doors as much as I otherwise would."

Any councillors who do get elected will see a hefty raise from their current salary of \$65,500 up to \$86,619 (plus another \$40,000 if named a cabinet minister).

But all four candidates said it's not about the money.

"Whether it's as a municipal representative or as an MLA I'm still getting paid less than when I was in the private sector," Younger said. "If I was in it for the money, I'd be going back to the private sector."

The councillors are all promoting their municipal experience in their campaigns. They also all agree that moving to provincial politics would give them more power to help their



East Dartmouth — The Lakes Coun. Andrew Younger is one of four members of Halifax Regional Council running in the provincial election next month.

constituents.

"I've always had public service at heart," Streatch said.

"I thought that the time was right and the opportunity presented itself to serve the people in a greater capacity."

And while the four have

divided among party lines, none of the Tory or Liberal candidates have taken any shots at each other.

"I admire them tremendously at the municipal level," Hum said.

"They work very hard as district councillors and I wish them all the best."

Skills program targeting older workers gets a \$4.2M boost

**LABOUR** A program to help unemployed older workers build skills and find work has received a three-year funding extension of \$4.2 million, the Department of Labour and Workforce Development announced yesterday.

The program, titled the Targeted Initiative for Older Workers, is a partnership with the federal government that identifies areas that have been, or could be, affected by closures or downsizing. The program works with community organizations to develop projects and is open to workers between the ages of 55 and 64.

A provincial government news release says 23 projects have helped close to 300 older workers in Nova Scotia since 2007, with more than 40 per cent gaining employment or starting their own business.

**METRO HALIFAX**



Therapy helps insomniacs more than meds: Study  
Teaching insomniacs how to fall asleep through talk therapy produces better results than continued use of sleep medications that carry dependency risks, according to a Canadian study released yesterday. **REUTERS**

# Canada



## Allow aid into Sri Lanka: Cannon

Canada remains concerned about civilian casualties in northern Sri Lanka and has urged the Sri Lankan government to allow humanitarian aid groups into refugee camps to help those who have fled the fighting, Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon said yesterday. "We call on the government of Sri Lanka to give the United Nations and other international humanitarian agencies immediate access to internally displaced persons," Cannon said in a statement.

**CBC NEWS ONLINE**

## Feds work to stave off shortage of isotopes

International effort underway after reactor shutdown

**Canadian energy authorities have closed a nuclear reactor that produces a third of the world's medical isotopes after a small leak and warned that there could be a shortage of isotopes by as early as Saturday.**

Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. said it shut down the 50-year-old reactor at Chalk River, Ont., late last week after it discovered a small leak of heavy water, used as part of the nuclear reaction process.

It expects the reactor to remain out of operation for more than a month.

Meantime, major isotope producing countries and companies are working co-

### How it works

- The isotopes are used in medical research and in some cancer treatments. When injected into the body, they give off radiation that can be imaged with a camera to diagnose cancer, heart disease and other medical conditions.

operatively to address the issue of a possible supply shortage, the federal government said.

"A secure supply of medical isotopes is not only an issue for Canada, it is an international issue that is being addressed co-operatively by all isotope-producing

countries," Natural Resources Minister Lisa Raitt said.

Raitt said Ottawa was engaging international isotope producers as well as companies such as MDS Nordion, Covidien Ltd., and privately held Lantheus, which the natural resources minister said play key roles in securing medical isotope supply for North America.

Shares of MDS Inc., whose MDS Nordion division has an exclusive agreement to distribute Chalk River's medical isotopes, were unchanged at \$6.19 after dropping to \$5.94 earlier in the session.

**REUTERS**

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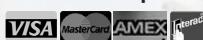
<b>Thursday, May 21</b>	<b>9:30 – 9:00 pm</b>
<b>Friday, May 22</b>	<b>9:30 – 9:00 pm</b>
<b>Saturday, May 23</b>	<b>9:30 – 6:00 pm</b>
<b>Sunday, May 24</b>	<b>12:00 – 5:00 pm</b>

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## Edmonton Sister Act



CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO CANADA

Sisters Nakita Kohan, 13, left, and Amelia Kohan, 8, are ready to go head to head in front of the judges for YTV show Next Star, at the Delta Edmonton South in Edmonton yesterday. The show gives children under the age of 15 a chance to show off their musical talent.

## Ottawa should guard food safety, poll says

**FOOD** Canadians are distrustful of food companies inspecting their own meat and want the federal government to take more responsibility for food safety, a national poll has found.

Seven in 10 Canadians believe Ottawa should be more hands-on in the safeguarding of food products, says the Nanos Research survey commissioned by the agriculture union that represents federal meat inspectors.

The poll asked 1,001 Canadians to gauge their faith in the country's meat-inspection system follow-

ing last summer's listeria outbreak that killed 22 people and sickened hundreds of others — perhaps thousands. The results are considered accurate within 3.1 per cent plus or minus, 19 times out of 20.

"What the poll shows is what my expectations are," said Liberal agriculture critic Wayne Easter who sits on a parliamentary committee investigating the outbreak. "Responsibility for food safety in Canada is the responsibility of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and its minister."

**TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

### News in brief

**ENERGY** The federal government announced details Tuesday of the \$1-billion clean energy fund it promised in February, with the lion's share of the cash going to support the development of carbon capture and storage projects. Ottawa said \$650 million has been earmarked to help pay for large-scale carbon capture and storage demonstration projects.

**REUTERS**

**OLIPHANT** Former prime minister Brian Mulroney admitted yesterday he did not want author William Kaplan to go public with information that he had a business relationship with Karlheinz Schreiber, but denied he called him specifically to ask him to keep the information quiet.

**CBC NEWS ONLINE**



# metro's koolest

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**Ancient primate fossil unveiled**  
Scientists yesterday unveiled fossilized remains of one of the oldest skeletons of an early primate that lived some 47 million years ago. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

# World

## Obama sets new efficiency standards

**U.S. President Barack Obama** took aim at climate-warming greenhouse gases yesterday and ordered the struggling auto industry to make more fuel-efficient cars under tough new national standards to cut emissions and increase gas mileage.

Obama said the national standards, announced at a White House ceremony attended by auto industry and union leaders, would reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil and give five years of cost certainty to an industry battling to survive.

"The status quo is no longer acceptable," Obama said in an announcement that will pressure carmakers to transform the industry to produce more efficient vehicles. Under the new vehicle standards, U.S. passenger vehicles must average 35.5 miles per gallon by 2016. Obama said that would save 1.8 billion barrels of oil over the lifetime



U.S. President Barack Obama puts his arm around California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger after announcing new standards for automobile fuel economy and emissions.

of the program.

The plan was praised by automakers and environmentalists but will mean higher price tags for consumers. The new program will add about \$600 US to the price of producing a vehicle.

The plan resolves a long-running dispute between the government and California, which sought a

waiver from federal law to impose its own tough standards on emissions. Obama said a series of lawsuits tied to California's efforts would be dropped.

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger attended the announcement and told reporters the weekend negotiations on the plan were "very intense."

REUTERS

### Sri Lanka confirms rebel leader dead

**SRI LANKA** Sri Lanka's military said yesterday Tamil Tiger rebel leader Vellupillai Prabhakaran's body had been found, and president Mahinda Rajapaksa urged Tamils to join in rebuilding a nation split by a 25-year separatist war. Television footage showed what appeared to be the corpse of the man who plunged the nation into one of the world's most intractable wars, his eyes open, face bloated and the top of his head blown off. The military declared victory over the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam after a gun battle on Monday.

REUTERS

### Bill Clinton to be envoy to Haiti

**UN** The head of the United Nations said yesterday he had named former U.S. president Bill Clinton as his special envoy to Haiti, the Western Hemisphere's poorest country, which suffered four hurricanes last year. Clinton accompanied Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Ban on a trip to Haiti in March.

REUTERS

### Flu could become resistant

**FLU** Influenza A (H1N1), also known as swine flu, is now widespread, causing a range of illness, and U.S. health officials say they fear it could mix with drug-resistant versions of seasonal flu.

This year its cousin, a seasonal H1N1 strain, became

mostly resistant to the most commonly used antiviral — Tamiflu.

Relenza, an inhaled drug, still works. The CDC said more seasonal flu viruses were making people sick than would normally be expected for May, and the reasons were not clear. **REUTERS**

#### News in brief

**TEEN SEX** British schoolboy Alfie Patten, who made headlines earlier this year when it was reported he had got his girlfriend pregnant when aged 12, is not the baby's father after all, a newspaper reported yesterday. In February, media said Patten's 15-year-old girlfriend had become pregnant, but after the story was reported, other boys came forward to say they had had sex with the mother. DNA tests have now revealed that the father is a 14-year-old schoolboy.

**PLANE CRASH** An Indonesian military transport plane carrying 13 crew and about 96 passengers has crashed in Madu in East Java, an air force spokesman said last night. The number of casualties was unclear, said spokesman Bam-

bang Soelistyo, adding the Hercules transport plane had been flying from Jakarta to the eastern part of Java island.

**SCIENCE** The same part of the brain that makes us crave food and sex may also help determine whether somebody is a warm and sentimental "people" person, researchers said in England said yesterday. Scientists found a greater concentration of brain tissue in certain areas of the brain may drive some people to gush fuzzy feelings more than others.

**POLITICS** U.S. president Barack Obama was dealt a setback yesterday by fellow Democrats in the Senate who said they would strip \$80 million from a funding bill for closing the U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay. **REUTERS**

# Save Your Money!

**CUBA** 85¢/min **INDIA** 5.9¢/min **PHILIPPINES** 11.9¢/min

 <b>Pakistan</b> .....5.9¢	 <b>Sri Lanka</b> .....11.9¢
 <b>U.S.A.</b> .....2.9¢	 <b>Lebanon</b> .....9.9¢
 <b>U.K.</b> .....2.9¢	 <b>Trinidad</b> .....7.9¢
 <b>Israel</b> .....2.9¢	 <b>Australia</b> .....2.9¢
 <b>Bangladesh</b> .....from 3.9¢	
 <b>Colombia</b> .....from 3.9¢	
 <b>Guyana</b> .....27.9¢	
 <b>Saudi Arabia</b> .....from 3.9¢	
 <b>Iran</b> .....from 3.9¢	
 <b>U.A.E.</b> .....16.9¢	

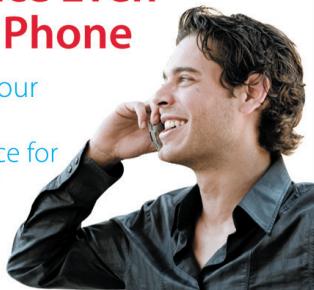
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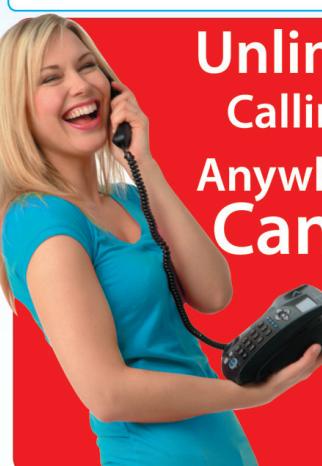


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# Comment & Views

## Comment

## Whack a seal: Defending our stupidity

TheWestView

**Paul Sullivan**

metronews.ca/thewestview

**A**s the beer commercial goes: I am Canadian. And as such, I suppose, it's my patriotic duty to defend our annual celebration of stupidity, the Atlantic seal hunt.

OK, here goes.

The first thing you should know is this so-called annual slaughter targets only a tiny percentage of the 5.5 million harp seal population, just a quarter of a million of the cutest and most defenceless.

Keep in mind as well sealers can no longer target "babies." Now they have to wait until the seals are "mature": 12-15 days old and beginning to moult. This corresponds with the time they are abandoned by their mothers. "Hi kid. Abandoned by your mom? Welcome to the real

world. Whack!"

I must, on behalf of the 6,000 sealers who make their livings whacking baby seals, protest the European Union's ban on seal pelts, passed May 5. Obviously, because the Europeans kill animals (and what about those bull fights, eh? Eh?), they have no right to get all self-righteous about the seal hunt.

Don't they realize the hunt is strictly regulated and humane?

At least as humane as it can be, considering it apparently requires the use of

something called a "hakapik," which looks exactly as it sounds, and the "mature" seal has absolutely no means of escape, except to close its big, impossibly adorable eyes, and wonder what happened to mom.

Those European dilettantes should respect the grand tradition that accompanies the whacking of baby seals.

Our Inuit friends have been whacking same since before recorded history and our noble maritime fisher guys have been at it for more than 400 years.

And surely that is one of the great lessons of history: The longer a brutal, pointless practice endures, the less pointless it becomes, but I'm not sure I want to go there just now.

Let's remember the annual seal whackathon brings 30 million badly needed dollars to the Atlantic economy. When you consider that \$30 million about covers the cost of the commodes at the new \$1-billion Vancouver convention centre, you have some idea of the epic scale we're dealing with here. Of

course, we could just give the Newfoundland sealers 30 million bucks and a gift coupon for Tim Hortons and tell them to stay home, but where's the dignity?

Who are we — effete, urban snobs who eat veal probably — to tell the noble sealers to forgo their storied traditions and stop whacking and hakapiking baby, er, mature seals to death? We simply don't understand, do we?

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

### Word on the street: Where is your favourite spot in the city to people watch and why?

**James Mosher**

age 22, Halifax

A: I'd say either Argyle Street at night just because it's so busy with the bars and restaurants. The Public Gardens during the day when it's warmer out.



**Jonathan Amyotte**

age 27, Halifax

A: Definitely the Public Gardens because of the number of people there, the flowers, the trees, the grass, it's really well manicured.



**Amanda Gray**

age 20, Kentville

A: I don't really people watch but I'd say the park because people go there.



**Nick Hirtle**

age 29, Halifax

A: Well, the best looking girls are on Spring Garden Road and the best deck to see the girls is from Your Father's Moustache.



**Monica Aucoin**

age 48, New Waterford

A: Spring Garden Road because of all the people. You see all kinds on Spring Garden Road.



**Ahmed Alnawyran**

age 20, Algeria

A: In summer, I think the Public Gardens. Sometimes I study there. I kind of hate the place in the winter.

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# Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

## The future of web queries?

**It's not a Google-killer — in fact, it's not even a search engine — but WolframAlpha and its concept of "computational knowledge" is already raising eyebrows by suggesting what the future of Internet queries might look like.**

Tech buffs have had a few days to play with WolframAlpha since it went live for testing last weekend amid significant buzz. Now open to the public, the free web service promises to eventually make "all systematic knowledge immediately computable by anyone."

WolframAlpha has a home page that resembles Google's, complete with a prominent query box. But instead of trolling billions of web pages for pertinent information and then leaving it up to the user to decide what is most useful, WolframAlpha attempts to answer a given query by mining its vast databases.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

### Creator

- WolframAlpha's creator, Stephen Wolfram, has been described as a physics prodigy. He wrote his first scientific paper at 15 and received his PhD in theoretical physics from Caltech by age 20.

The early reviews are mixed, with some marveling at its ability to answer questions of a human nature — How far is it from Vancouver to Halifax? — and others wondering whether it's just as easy to turn to existing web resources.

"It certainly points us toward a future where search looks very different than it does today," said Carmi Levy, senior vice-president of strategic consulting for AR Communications Inc.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## The DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

### Housing starts report:

Residential construction and sales of existing homes in Halifax will continue to decline this year, but should jump back next year, a report released yesterday by the Canada Mortgage Housing Corp. says.

### Berwick Industrial Park hosting grand opening:

After four years of development, the Berwick Industrial Park is hosting a grand opening May 23, looking to showcase what's there and what could be there.

### Blueberry farm lands

### \$1.5M loan guarantee:

For nearly three decades, Rainbow Farms Ltd. of Upper Rawdon has cultivated, processed and exported blueberries, and now the province is providing a \$1.5-million loan guarantee to help the business expand.

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**DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ**  
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## Unexpected decline in Q1 business bankruptcies

### SunnySide

**REPORT** Business bankruptcies in Canada dropped unexpectedly in the first quarter, in contrast with the trend in the United States and a sharp rise seen during previous Canadian recessions, a report released yesterday said.

Business bankruptcies fell no less than 14 per cent during the first three months of 2009 compared with the same period in 2008, according to the report by CIBC World Markets.

The total number of business bankruptcies in Canada fell 4.4 per cent during the year ended March 2009.

"The resiliency of business bankruptcies bodes well for the recovery in the labour market in 2010," said the report's author, Benjamin Tal.

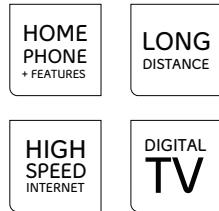
REUTERS

# BellAliant

bundling just got better

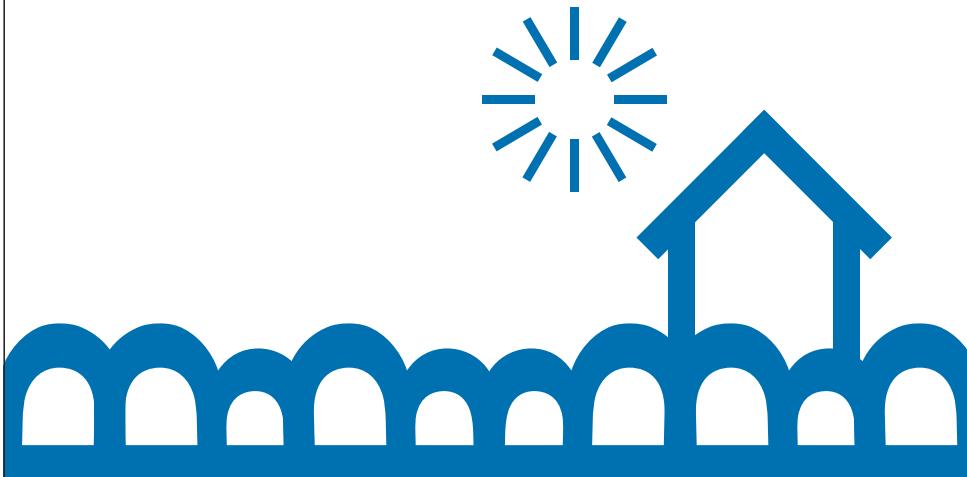
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Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison will skip the Super Bowl champions' White House visit with U.S. President Barack Obama tomorrow. Harrison will bypass the traditional ceremony, just as he did when the Steelers were honoured by President George W. Bush at the White House in June 2006. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Sports

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

## Red Sox edge Jays in battle atop AL East

## MLB RESULTS

Toronto 1 Boston 2



**BASEBALL** Tim Wakefield threw eight solid innings and the Boston Red Sox, despite the continued struggles of slugger David Ortiz, edged Toronto 2-1 in the opener of a three-game series.

Ortiz went 0-for-3 with a walk and a pair of strikeouts, dropping his average to .203 this season. The designated hitter, who sat out a three-game series at Seattle over the weekend, has gone 147 at-bats without a homer, the longest drought of his career. Ortiz's last home run in the regular season came September 22, 2008 against Cleveland.

Wakefield (5-2) allowed five hits, including a fifth-

inning homer to Kevin Millar, walked two and fanned three batters. The knuckleballer is 17-11 in his career against Toronto.

Jonathan Papelbon retired the side in order in the ninth to log his 11th save.

Wakefield got all the support he needed in the second inning thanks to an RBI single from Jeff Bailey and a sacrifice fly off the bat of George Kottaras as Boston won for the second time in its last six contests. However, Boston has captured 13 of its last 15 at Fenway Park.

Brian Tallet (2-2) gave up four hits and two runs over six innings as the AL East-leading Blue Jays had a season-high four-game win streak stopped.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Spitfires win to stay alive in Memorial Cup tournament

**CHL** The Windsor Spitfires are still alive.

The Spitfires needed to win last night to avoid elimination at the Memorial Cup in Rimouski, Que., and got one with a narrow 2-1 triumph over the unbeaten Kelowna Rockets.

Defenceman Ryan Ellis scored the winner just 4:13 into the third period and Taylor Hall added a goal and an assist. The Spitfires managed to keep Memorial Cup scoring leader Jamie Benn (five goals, three assists) off the score sheet.

Kelowna had already clinched a spot in Sunday's final after opening the tournament with two wins.

It was the first Memorial Cup victory for the Spitfires, who entered as a favourite. They clinched a spot in tomorrow's tiebreaker against the loser of tonight's game between the Drummondville Voltigeurs and host Rimouski Oceanic.

The winner of tonight's 7 p.m. Eastern tilt goes to the semifinals.

## SCOREBOARD

## MLB

YESTERDAY'S AL RESULTS  
Boston 2 Toronto 1  
Detroit 4 Texas 0  
N.Y. Yankees 9 Baltimore 1  
Oakland 4 Tampa Bay 1  
Kansas City 6 Cleveland 5  
Minnesota at Chicago White Sox  
L.A. Angels at Seattle

YESTERDAY'S NL RESULTS  
Atlanta 8 Colorado 1  
Pittsburgh 8 Washington 5  
Arizona 5 Florida 3  
Philadelphia 3 Cincinnati 3  
Milwaukee 3 at Houston  
St. Louis 3 Chicago Cubs 0  
San Francisco at San Diego  
N.Y. Mets at L.A. Dodgers

## NHL

TODAY'S AL GAMES  
Toronto at Boston  
Texas at Detroit  
Baltimore at N.Y. Yankees  
Oakland at Tampa Bay  
Cleveland at Kansas City  
Minnesota at Chicago White Sox  
L.A. Angels at Seattle

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS  
Chicago at Detroit  
Thursday's Game  
Carolina at Pittsburgh

TODAY'S NL GAMES  
Pittsburgh at Washington  
Colorado at Atlanta  
Arizona at Florida (Gm 1)  
Atlanta at Cincinnati (Gm 2)  
Philadelphia at Cincinnati  
Milwaukee at Houston  
Chicago Cubs at St. Louis  
San Francisco at San Diego  
N.Y. Mets at L.A. Dodgers

YESTERDAY'S GAME  
Denver at L.A. Lakers

TODAY'S GAMES  
Orlando at Cleveland

## VANCOUVER 2010 Games

All hail — or inhale — the 2010 Olympic Torch.

Or, as it's jokingly known around Vancouver, the Olympic Toke.

Composed of stainless steel, aluminum and sheet moulding, the torch was designed to invoke snow, ice, skiing and skating, but to many, the metre-length white torch looks suspiciously like a marijuana

joint, especially when lit.

That the torch bears a resemblance to Vancouver's biggest cash crop was evident right away to Jodie Emery, editor of Cannabis Culture magazine.

"A lot of people come to Vancouver because it's marijuana-friendly so I think people who already enjoy a joint themselves will feel a little more kinship to the Olympics," said Emery, who ran this

month as a Green Party candidate in the provincial election.

"I'm sure the organizers didn't intend for it to look like a joint but that's what a lot of people are seeing."

The torch officially is meant to resemble the lines left behind by skiers and skaters on snow and ice.

Any double — or doo-bie — entendres, officials say, are purely unintentional.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

**Steeler to skip White House**



## Julien honoured

Boston Bruins head coach Claude Julien has been named NHL Coach of the Year by the Sporting News. Julien led Boston to the top of the Eastern Conference standings this season, posting a record of 53-19-10 while racking up 116 points in just his second season in Beantown. The Sporting News chose Julien after compiling votes by 39 coaches and executives from throughout the league.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Wings clip Hawks in OT

(Detroit leads series 2-0)

Chicago 2 Detroit 3 (OT)



Stanley Cup

2009 Playoffs

Mikael Samuelsson's goal 5:14 into overtime sent the Detroit Red Wings to a 3-2 victory over the Chicago Blackhawks in Game 2 of their Western Conference final from Joe Louis Arena.



DAVE SANDFORD/GETTY IMAGES

Chicago's Ben Eager, right, checks Detroit's Niklas Kronwall into the boards last night during Game 2 of the Western Conference final. Detroit won the game 3-2 in overtime.

Samuelsson started a rush off a giveaway by Hawks defenceman Brian Campbell, pushing the puck ahead through the neutral zone to Jiri Hudler. It quickly became a 3-on-1

as Valteri Filppula joined on the right wing. Hudler dished to Filppula, who turned and fed back to Samuels-

son for a bullet one-timer inside the left post.

Dan Cleary and Brian Rafalski also tallied for the Red Wings, who assumed a two-games-to-none series advantage.

Chris Osgood made 37 saves for his 10th win of this postseason.

Jonathan Toews posted both goals for the Blackhawks, who look for their first win in the series in Game 3 on Friday at United Center.

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## Mediation ordered in Coyotes bankruptcy case

## COYOTES

If the bankruptcy of the Phoenix Coyotes were a hockey game, it would be the end of the first period and the score would be tied 1-1.

Both the NHL and its opponents — the legal teams for

Coyotes owner Jerry Moyes and Canadian billionaire Jim Balsillie — scored a couple of points and came away with a few bruises in a day of momentum swings.

All sides came away with reason to be optimistic their side would prevail after a five-hour session with Judge Redfield Baum, who effectively neutralized the issue of control by ordering mediation.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## Olympic torch sparking interesting comparison

## VANCOUVER

## 2010 Games

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## Sports in brief

**SUPER BOWL** Saints owner Tom Benson announced yesterday that the city of New Orleans was selected by NFL owners as the location for Super Bowl XLVII in the year 2013. Miami and Phoenix had also made bids for the league's championship game.

**NBA** The Los Angeles Clippers won the NBA Draft lottery last night and will have the No. 1 overall selection on June 25. The Toronto Raptors will draft ninth.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Lantz native signs with German hockey team

Lantz forward Cory Urquhart has signed with Heilbronner EC of Germany's second level, the Bundesliga. Urquhart is a former second-round pick of the Montreal Canadiens. **METRO HALIFAX**

## sports 9

# 'Nothing compares'

Pelham Canadians players enjoy team's return to winning

**MATTHEW WUEST**  
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

**Patience has paid off for Jay Turple and Ryan Veinot.**

The elder statesmen of the Halifax Pelham Canadians have watched years of losing fade away — replaced by what they hope is the start of a new winning tradition.

The Canadians captured last year's Nova Scotia Senior Baseball League title, their first in 17 years, and will vie for a national crown in Halifax and Dartmouth in August.

It's been a long time coming. Turple, who joined the team in 1997, and Veinot, who came on board in 2000, suffered through five straight losing seasons from 2002 to 2006.

"I don't think I could go through that again," says the 30-year-old Turple. "We had years with only six wins. It makes for some long road trips up to Truro and Kentville when you're getting beaten by 10 runs on back-to-back nights."

The turnaround started in 2007 with a 16-13 season. Last summer, they went 18-11 before a magical playoff run that included a comeback from a 3-0 series deficit.

Youngsters such as Mark Pelham and Barrett Belle-



Ryan Veinot and his Halifax Pelham Canadians teammates will be playing for national crown in Halifax and Dartmouth in August.

fontaine joined the veteran core of Turple, Veinot, Adam Lucas, Chris Munroe and Mark Haverstock to put Halifax over the top.

"The team's now getting to where I hoped it would be along," says Turple. "We're more organized, more professional."

Most of last year's championship team is back, while Brandon Hunter, a hard-hitting former pro

from British Columbia, gives the Canadians rock-solid batting depth.

"We're good all-around," says Veinot. "Our pitching was very strong last year and we had timely hitting. Defensively, offensively and pitching came together and all did their part."

Dartmouth Moosehead Dry, which saw its string of five straight titles end last summer, hosts nationals at Beazley Field and

Mainland Common and badly wants to win.

But the Canadians have generated a fresh storyline for the NSSBL, and Turple and Veinot — who say they've had fun even through the lean years — are enjoying the change of pace.

"We had a some fun years," says Turple, "but more wins is always more fun. Nothing compares to winning."



Jason King plays in a match between Adler Mannheim and Krefeld Pinguine on Nov. 25, 2008 in Mannheim, Germany.

## King staying in Germany?

**MATTHEW WUEST**  
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Former Halifax Mooseheads sniper Jason King appears to be staying in Germany for another season.

King, the Mooseheads' second all-time leading goal-scorer, has signed with the Hamburg Freezers, according to the Deutsche Eishockey Liga club's official website.

The 27-year-old forward scored seven goals and added 10 assists for 17 points in 37 games with the DEL's Mannheim Eagles last season. He also spent the 2006-07 campaign overseas with Skelleftea of the Swedish Elite League.

King scored 114 goals among 198 points in 186 games with the Mooseheads from 1999 to 2002. The former Vancouver Canucks draftee has played 59 NHL games.

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Volvo will release a free racing game developed with Swedish video game specialists SimBin. Users can virtually pilot the Volvo S60 concept or five Volvo racing legends in the game. METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Metro Drive



## Costliest bid

A 1957 Ferrari 250 Testa Rossa has set a new world record for the most expensive car ever sold at auction, costing the buyer \$12.15 million US, according to RM Auctions, which organized the event Sunday in Maranello, Italy. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

## TSX opens door to luxury

Acura model keeps sporty feel despite many refinements

ROB BEINTEMA  
for Metro Canada



### Who says it can't be fixed if it ain't broke?

When the new 2009 Acura TSX debuted, it delivered on the promise of a bigger and better TSX.

And those two qualities don't always go together.

In fact, when the original TSX was unveiled in 2003, I remember Acura making much of the fact that the car was based on the European Accord platform, not Honda's domestic version.

The European version of the Accord was smaller, lighter and tighter, with a platform tuned for the sporty character, taut suspension and handling en-



The new 2009 Acura TSX is an upscale sports sedan with many new features inside and out.

**2009 Acura TSX**  
**Type:** Entry-level luxury sedan  
**Price:** from \$37,650  
**Engine:** 2.4-litre DOHC i-VTEC 4-cylinder engine (201 hp / 172 lb-ft)  
**Fuel economy:** 9.6/6.5/8.2L/100km (city/hwy/combined)

### Highlights

- High-quality looks
- Loaded with features

gendered by the narrower, twisty roads of the Old World.

So designers had to be careful not to mess with the TSX's persona and strategic positioning within the lineup, while still trying to make the second-generation car roomier, more ag-

ile and more responsive. The 2009 TSX evolution starts with a wider, more aggressive stance. Overall body-width has increased 78 mm and the track dimensions are 65 mm wider than the outgoing model. The TSX has also been stretched in the other direction, riding on a 35 mm longer wheelbase and the car itself is 66 mm longer. That translates into a larg-

er platform with smoother, more planted handling feel along with a corresponding increase in exterior dimensions and interior space.

Acura has tweaked the performance and emissions of the 2.4-litre all-aluminum DOHC i-VTEC inline 4-cylinder engine that produces 201 hp and 172 lb-ft of torque.

That doesn't sound like

much of an improvement at first — the horsepower is actually down from the 205 hp rating of the 2008 model. Torque is up 8.0 lb-ft (170 lb-ft in the automatic), but more importantly, the useable power is available across a much wider rpm range, while the five percent increase in torque is designed to strengthen the engine's pulling power at middle

rpm levels. Fuel economy is rated at 9.6/6.5/8.2L/100 km (city/hwy/combined), in the automatic, as tested.

Two transmissions are available, a standard six-speed close-ratio manual with new (more performance oriented) ratios for second through sixth gears or a Sequential SportShift five-speed automatic with a new lock-up assembly.

The manual tranny was designed with the sport driver in mind, featuring a short-throw shifter and mounted in a lightweight magnesium case — a rarity in the industry.

Any Acura comes well loaded but bumping the TSX up to Premium adds leather seats, XM Satellite Radio, USB connector, front fog lights, automatic headlight activation, High Intensity Discharge low-beam headlights and a two-position driver memory seat.

And all this button-happy gadgetry is set into a high-quality interior.

## 2010 Forester pricing announced

Subaru Canada recently announced pricing for the 2010 Forester, including the new PZEV (Partial Zero Emission Vehicle) that joins the Forester lineup for the new model year.

The 170-horsepower Forester 2.5X, with a host of exceptional features including heated seats and Subaru's advanced vehicle dynamics control electronic stability system, is available with either a five-speed

manual transmission (\$25,995) or a 4EAT electronically controlled automatic transmission with SPORTSHIFT (\$27,095).

The new Forester PZEV meets the Super Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle tailpipe emission standard (SULEV) and eliminates fuel-system evaporative emissions. Compared to an average new vehicle, Subaru PZEV vehicles have 90 per cent cleaner emissions. The

Forester PZEV, with 4EAT SPORTSHIFT transmission, will retail for \$28,095.

There's also a 2.5X model equipped with a Touring package. Pricing for this model is \$28,695 with the 5MT transmission.

"Forester is the ideal vehicle for people with an active lifestyle, thanks to a comfortable, intelligently designed interior, fun-to-drive performance, and exceptional active and passive



The 2010 Subaru Forester starts at \$25,995.

safety," said Katsuhiro Yokoyama, president and CEO of Subaru Canada.

"That's why the third generation Forester was

named the Best New SUV/CUV under \$35,000, by the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada." METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Chrysler unveils new V6 engine

**TECHNOLOGY** Chrysler has introduced an all-new line of V6 engines that will improve fuel efficiency across the Chrysler, Jeep and Dodge lineup by eight per cent on average compared with previous Chrysler V6 engines. This refined V6 engine will ultimately replace seven current Chrysler V6 engines. The new 3.6-litre V6 engine is named Pentastar.

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Mini has created a modern version of late Beatles guitarist George Harrison's vintage car to coincide with the brand's 50th birthday. The one-off model will be handed over to Harrison's widow, Olivia Harrison. METRO NEWS SERVICES

MINI tribute to Harrison

# Audi pumps it up

PETER BLEAKNEY  
for Metro Canada



**In its bid to become the world's largest maker of premium automobiles, Audi recently showed off the latest arrow in its burgeoning quiver in the south of France.**

Arriving in Canada in late summer, the four-seat 2010 Audi A5 and hotter S5 Cabriolet, both with quattro all-wheel-drive, will fill the void created by the de-

parting previous generation A4 drop top. No Canadian pricing has been set, but rest assured, Audi wants to lure buyers away from the BMW 328i Cabriolet (\$55,600) and the 335i Cabriolet (\$65,600).

Audi is using a three-layer fabric top for this cabrio, giving the benefits of reduced complexity, weight and volume. Top up, it's a relief to see this car carries much of the A5 coupe's chiseled good looks.

With the roof tucked un-

der the tonneau cover (15 seconds down, 17 seconds up, operates up to 50 km/h) it cuts quite a graceful profile. The brushed aluminum trim ringing the cabin is a lovely detail.

The 2010 A5 Cabriolet carries a naturally aspirated 265 hp 3.2-litre FSI V6 mated to a 6-speed Tiptronic autobox. This proved a satisfying combination, delivering smooth performance that was well suited to the A5's mission as a comfy tourer.



The four-seat 2010 Audi A5 and the hotter S5 Cabriolet (pictured) arrive in Canada in late summer.

Enthusiasts will opt for the S5 Cabriolet, which sports 18-inch wheel and a 333 hp supercharged TFSI 3.0-litre V6.

For much of this test route, which resembled

the trajectory of a highly intoxicated sailor, horsepower was not a pressing issue. More pertinent was the ability of Audi's latest cabrio to provide good grip and balanced handling.

My S5 tester also featured the optional variable-rate dynamic steering and the new rear sport differential that will send torque to the outside rear wheel when cornering.

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**Toyota most trusted in study**

Toyota has been voted Canada's most trusted brand in two categories — passenger car manufacturer and SUV manufacturer — in a national study commissioned by Reader's Digest. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

# Nuvis: Urban utility redefined

**The world can now to peer into Hyundai's future with the introduction of the Nuvis concept at the recently concluded 2009 New York International Auto Show.**

The Nuvis is the eleventh signature concept car to be designed at the company's California Design Center in Irvine, Calif.

In addition to showcasing the brand's cutting-edge capabilities, Nuvis also hints at a possible design direction for a future-generation crossover, blending attributes of a tall urban car and a premium utility vehicle.

Consistent with Hyundai's pledge to lead all brands in U.S. fuel economy by 2015, Nuvis is powered by Hyundai's Hybrid Blue Drive architecture, which uses breakthrough lithium polymer battery technology.

Hyundai's all-new, homegrown Hybrid Blue Drive architecture helps define the Nuvis concept. Hyundai's proprietary parallel hybrid drive system mates the already fuel-effi-

**"Consistent with Hyundai's pledge to lead all brands in U.S. fuel economy by 2015, Nuvis is powered by Hyundai's Hybrid Blue Drive architecture, which uses breakthrough lithium polymer battery technology."**

cient 2.4-litre Theta II engine to a six-speed automatic transmission and a 30kW electric motor for maximum fuel economy.

Hybrid Blue Drive has an all-electric mode and a parallel drive mode, meaning that the wheels are turned by power coming directly from the gasoline engine, or the electric motor, or both together, as conditions demand.

This parallel hybrid drive architecture will serve as the foundation for future Hyundai hybrid drive vehicles, starting with the next-generation Sonata.

Perched on top of 22-inch wheels, Nuvis' proportions are tall, strong and protective. The two body-side lines set up a flowing water effect, giving the appearance of motion.

Large gull-wing doors, ei-

ther opened or closed, create unique front, rear and profile views.

Blue ambient lighting

cast across the body adds to the overall upscale feel of the vehicle.

FROM CARGUIDE



Hyundai's Nuvis concept.

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Hyundai ranks highest among auto manufacturer websites in satisfying Canadian new-vehicle shoppers, according to a recent J.D. Power and Associates study. Toyota closely follows Hyundai in the rankings and Mazda is third. METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Borrego satisfies

Kia SUV competent but doesn't outshine rivals

JIL MCINTOSH  
for Metro Canada



**Given the length of time it takes to develop a vehicle, automakers can find circumstances have changed considerably from the drawing board to the showroom. That's probably the case with the Kia Borrego, which isn't helped by being released into the current economic crisis.**

It's not that there's a lot wrong with it, but that it doesn't really outshine the competitors in a rapidly-dwindling segment. It's another competent SUV in a pool of competent mid- to full-size SUVs.

This body-on-frame, seven-passenger model offers Kia's first V8 in North America, a 4.6-litre that's a version of the Hyundai Genesis' power plant. But my tester was the 3.8-litre V6, which starts at \$36,995, making it \$2,500 less than the V8.

My ride was the upper-line EX, at \$40,995, which brings extra features and a specific 4WD system. The base LX is a part-time sys-

## 2009 Kia Borrego

**Type:** SUV  
**Price:** from \$36,995  
**Engine:** 3.8L V6  
**HP:** 276  
**Torque:** 267 lb/ft

### Highlights

- Unique platform
- Roomy

tem, running primarily in rear-wheel, with the 4x4 system strictly for loose or slippery surfaces. The EX uses a full-time, all-wheel system that can be used on any road, and also locked into high or low if necessary for extra traction.

The platform is unique, not just a larger version of the Sorento, with independent rear suspension. In V6 configuration, it puts out 276 horsepower and 267 lb/ft of torque, and comes solely

The 2009 Kia Borrego aims to take its place in the tough SUV segment and one thing that may be going for it is the improved interior, which features quality materials, good panel fit, good visibility and comfortable seating.

with a five-speed automatic transmission (the V8 us-

ties: A/C, heated seats and mirrors, trailer hitch, satel-

knee airbag), electronic stability control, hill assist and downhill

brake control. Moving up to the EX adds 18-inch wheels, power-adjustable leather seats, automatic climate control, auto-dimming rear mirror, power-adjustable steering

The V6 works so well that I'd question moving up to the V8 unless you're planning heavy-duty towing. Handling is fine, but the suspension is very truck-like.

On smooth roads, Borrego just feels rugged, but the least bit of broken pavement sends every smack and wallop into the cabin.

Inside, there's little to fault for the price: Quality materials, good panel fit, comfortable seating and good visibility. Kia has been improving its interiors over the last few new models, and it shows.



es a six-speed automatic). The base LX contains the usual round-up of ameni-

ties: radio, cruise control, side and curtain airbags (but not the V8's driver

wheel, and side steps).

The front seats are roomy, and the third-row

## Everyone's a bad driver ... except you

### AutoPilot

**Michael Goetz**

metronews.ca/autopilot

"H ave you noticed? Anybody going slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a moron."

George Carlin said that once, and I believe the observation has more than a grain of truth about it.

Our assessment on whether or not some other driver is screwing up seems based not so much on if they're contravening the law — those are obvious signs — but more so if they are deviating from

our more idiosyncratic, personal codes of driving behaviour.

That person following you, maybe three feet closer than you're comfortable with? Well, he's a maniac. That person backing up traffic while waiting to make a left, and not taking advantage of a dicey gap in on-coming traffic — a gap you would have surely grabbed? That person is a menace to society. That driver who approached an intersection with far too much caution, causing you to lose your God-given right to run that yellow light? Well, that person is a selfish oaf. How do they live with themselves?

Tolerance of other people's driving is tested even more if that other person is your spouse or significant other.

Here's comedian Rita Rudner on the topic: "When my husband and I are in the car, I usually let him drive. Because when I drive, he has a tendency to bite the dashboard."

Comedian Rita Rudner

are in the car, I usually let him drive. Because when I drive, he has a tendency to bite the dashboard."

(I'm just going to move right along here and not discuss my wife's driving.)

One strategy I'm trying to stay cool behind the wheel, is imagining that whatever boneheaded move the other driver just did, was an aberration, a slip up they usually don't make. But I'm not there yet. I generally assume they're hardened, amoral criminal types, and it's my

duty to lay on as much horn as possible.

Another strategy I'm working on is shortening my list of driving pet peeves. Not there yet either.

The thing that has helped me the most, however, in the battle to stay calm, is anticipating debatable behaviour.

Advanced driving courses always instill the notion of self-defence. Quickly identify situations where an ill-advised move by the other driver will put you at risk, and assume the worst. If they make the right move, that's fine.

But if they cross your line, or the one that police actually use, and you've reacted correctly and gracefully and with a world-weary smirk, well, that's even finer.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.



New York Police Department has added 40 hybrid patrol cars.

## Fighting crime, going green

**HYBRIDS** Forty Nissan Altima hybrids are the first alternative fuel vehicles to be used as marked and unmarked patrol cars in the New York Police Department's fleet.

The Altima hybrids have been assigned to areas of the city where their fuel efficiency presents the greatest economic and environmental benefit — both in precincts with a large coverage area and smaller precincts prone to heavy stop-and-go traffic.

The 40 hybrid vehicles, 18 marked and 22 unmarked, will be used in patrol precincts and other

units in all five boroughs.

"These new patrol cars will help fulfill the goal of reducing City government's carbon footprint," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

"Through savings in fuel, these Altimas can quickly cover their additional cost, from then they will save taxpayers money."

While the Altima hybrids are the first alternate fuel vehicles to be used as regular police cars, the NYPD already uses hybrid vehicles in its parking enforcement fleet as well as electric scooters.

FROM CARGUIDE

# How cool is your car?

**JUSTIN PRITCHARD**  
for Metro Canada



**The hot weather is one of the most eagerly anticipated parts of the summer season if you're a human being. If you're a vehicle, the heat means additional strain on vital components during towing, hauling and long family trips.**

**Family trips.**  
Poorly maintained parts tend to show themselves when vehicles are pushed to extremes.

As such, a sweltering summer day is a fantastic time for overheating, driveline failure or engine damage, if your cooling system isn't performing properly. Any of the above will leave you stranded on the roadside with a car full of sweaty, irritated and cranky family members. Fortunately, readying your cooling system for warm-weather travelling is a relatively quick and painless endeavour.

In addition to keeping your engine running at its ideal operating temperature, your cooling system may play a part in keeping other components, like your transmission, from overheating as well. Your cooling system works by circulating coolant throughout the engine to absorb and remove the tremendous heat it generates while running.

Over time, the effectiveness of the coolant diminishes, and a coolant change is required. This occurs in varying intervals for different vehicles, or on an "as-needed" basis as advised by your mechanic. Forget when your coolant was changed last? It's probably overdue.

If your ride is dripping green fluid and you're planning a road trip anyways, you're asking for trouble. Overheating can quickly lead to engine failure and permanent, catastrophic damage. Cooling system repairs tend to be considerably more affordable than an engine replacement.

A periodic radiator flush is also advisable to remove harmful sludge from within the cooling system. Sludge may accumulate within the radiator and hoses over time, reducing effectiveness and component life.

Protecting your engine from the heat this summer is only half the battle — and you'll want to make sure you and your passengers benefit from a reliable and effective air conditioning system. If your A/C

A/C line or fitting may allow air, moisture or other contaminants into the system. This can cause a world of trouble and result in serious damage. Air and moisture mixing with refrigerant is bad news — so fixing a leak early on can

save money, not to mention preventing potentially harmful chemicals from winding up in the atmosphere.

A simple mechanical or electrical failure could result in improper operation of the A/C system, too.



If your car A/C seems hesitant to blow cold, or if it isn't cooling the cabin as quickly as you remember, an inspection may be in order.



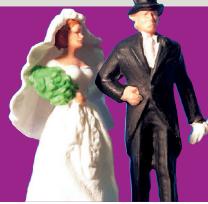
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ford.ca



Though U.S. motorhome manufacturers have seen demand evaporate as a result of the current economic downturn and credit crunch, analysts are upbeat about the sector, arguing that the market for motorhomes will come back. **REUTERS**



## Booming business

A new survey by Destination Weddings & Honeymoons magazine forecasts that—despite the recession—the market for such weddings will grow to \$16 billion US this year from \$13 billion in 2008, extending a winning streak that has seen the market boom from just \$3 billion in 2001. **REUTERS**

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

# Travel

## The wide world of garden tours

If you're into horticulture, here's your travel to-do list

EMMA E. FORREST  
Metro World News

Green is chic — why not spend your holiday paying homage to the great outdoors with a garden-themed trip?

### British Flower Shows

The British are obsessed with their gardens. The highpoints of the British garden lover's year are the RHS flower shows. The most famous of these is the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show at the end of May, where top garden designers compete for the finest show garden and the latest gardening trends are set.

However, the insider's choice is the Hampton Court Palace Flower show in July — it's bigger and less crowded. There's an inspiring range of displays from



Above left, a display at the Waterlily House at London's Kew Gardens. Above right, a Zen garden at Japan's Ryoanji Temple.



small gardens to front yards, family-friend-

planting, extravagant conceptual designs, vegetable patches and how

to make your garden sustainable. (rhs.org.uk) If trekking round the shows hasn't satisfied your needs for horticultural inspiration, then pay a visit to

the famous 250-year-old botanical gardens at Kew, in London. These stunning grounds are home to a palace, themed gardens, a tree top walkway, and impressive plant collections housed in extravagant greenhouses; visit [kew.org](http://kew.org).

### Bulbs in Benelux

Holland is lifted by a riot of colour when spring arrives and the country's trademark flower — the tulip — starts to bloom. The best place to enjoy these bold flowers is at Keukenhof, the world's largest flower garden where they are laid out in vast multi-coloured carpets.

Read more on page 17

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**Bowing out of the Bahamas**

A five-star, Four Seasons resort in the Bahamas will close its doors this month after it was put into receivership nearly two years ago due to mounting financial losses. The Four Seasons Resort Great Exuma is to close May 26 and is no longer accepting reservations. **REUTERS**



Above left, a view of the garden at Saiho-ji Temple in Kyoto, Japan. Above right, the Palm House at Kew Gardens is a massive Victorian glass structure containing a world-class collection.



## &gt;&gt; Continued from page 16

Established 60 years ago as an exhibition at which growers from the flower bulb industry could present their latest flowers, it's now a sort of fabulous floral theme park.

Every year seven million flower bulbs in 1,600 different varieties supplied by 93 different exhibitors are planted throughout this 32 hectare estate. You can admire the configurations of different colours and shapes of bulb, and of course buy some to take home afterwards; details at [keukenhof.nl](http://keukenhof.nl).

**Zen gardens of Japan**

You might have missed the spring cherry blossoms in Tokyo, but there are plenty more opportunities to enjoy the flora of Japan.

Far from the fussy, flowery gardens of Europe and the U.S., these gardens found in the grounds of Buddhist temples, historic castles and private homes, are carefully-constructed minimalist havens, with gravel paths, sparse planting, artfully-placed rocks, pavilions, bridges, tranquil ponds and relaxing water features.

Some gardens are religious, others ceremonial, artistic or designed for strolling through.

Kyoto is awash with splendid examples, including those in the grounds of the city's 13 World Heritage Sites, including the gardens at Nijo Castle, Ninomaru, Tenryu-ji Temple, Kiyomizudera Temple, the beautiful moss garden of Saiho-ji Temple, and the

garden at Kinkaku-ji Temple, where nature is represented by stones and gravel swept into simple patterns with a broom; [jnto.go.jp](http://jnto.go.jp).

**Biodiversity in Costa Rica**

Flora and fauna fans will be overwhelmed by the diversity that Costa Rica has to offer.

This tiny country in Central America covers only 0.1 per cent of the world's landmass, but is home to five per cent of global biodiversity.

Almost a quarter of the country is made up of national parks, protected by the environmentally-conscious government. These tropical paradises are home to a bounty of more than 100,000

exotic and colourful plant species, alongside thousands of types of animals and birds.

Highlights include the botanical gardens of the Centro Neotropico SarapiquiS Gardens, the Arenal Botanical Gardens, the Elsie Kientzler Botanical Garden, the botanical gardens of CATIE, the aerial tour of the Braulio Carrillo National Park, the La Paz Waterfall Gardens which is full of butterflies and hummingbirds and the Lankester Botanical Gardens in San Jose, home to more than a thousand varieties of orchid; check out [visitcostarica.com](http://visitcostarica.com).

**Tropical gardens in Madeira**

There's more to this Portuguese island in the middle of the Atlantic than the sweet wine. Madeira is known for its exotic flora and a visit will not disappoint garden fans — the tropical climate and the volcanic soil create perfect conditions for growing all manner of exotic plants from gardenias and freesias to hibiscus, agapanthus, mimosa, bougainvillea and orchids.

All of these flowers are on show in

the wealth of well-tended gardens including the Botanical Gardens, the Tropical Gardens of Monte Palace with its collection of cycads, the Garden of Quinta da Boa Vista, with its collection of orchids, as well as private gardens like Quinta Palmeira and Quinta do Palheiro, famous for its camellias.

Another great way to discover the spectacular scenery is to take a walk along the levadas, a series of water channels created to bring water from the highlands to the lower parts of the island; details at [madeiratourism.org](http://madeiratourism.org).



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Air Canada and fellow Star Alliance partner Spanair announced yesterday they have entered a codeshare agreement that expands their networks between popular destinations in Canada and Spain. METRO NEWS SERVICES



The plane to Spain



# Where to be seen in Miami

Check out these hip new South Beach bars

**S**trolling along palm-tree lined Ocean Drive, against a backdrop of pastel-coloured Art Deco buildings, I feel like I'm part of a postcard.

This is South Beach, a celebrity playground of restaurants, bars, salsa clubs and Miami vices; home to luxury lifestyles, reality-TV tattoo shops and the world famous diet. Dubbed America's Riviera and the Latin Hollywood, Miami draws a wide range of tourist types, from snowbirds to university students and sun-worshippers to trendsetters.

For those looking to party, South Beach is the place to be, with what seems like an endless supply of bars to choose from. If you want to party like a rock star but feel overwhelmed by all the options, here are a few places to start:

**Gansevoort South Hotel:** The Gansevoort South, a hip hotel on Collins Avenue, is a favourite among Miami's beautiful people. Walk past the lobby's 50-

foot-long shark tank and take the elevator to Plunge, a poolside lounge overlooking the ocean, the city and a tree-fringed infinity pool. From there, check out Louis, a vampish Versailles-themed VIP lounge; gansevoortsouth.com.

#### Skybar at Shore Club

Enjoy the perfect weather at Bedroom garden, a chill landscaped patio of tropical plants and eclectic Moroccan-themed design. Sauntering around this communal space, you can wander from Rumbar, which serves up 75 different kinds of rum, into Bedroom, where you can dance the night away to hip hop and Top 40; shoreclub.com.

#### W South Beach Hotel

When in doubt, you can't go wrong with W. With slick architecture, high design and a pulse on what's cool, the new W South Beach Hotel (set to open June 16) is a sure bet.

The Wall nightclub, an ultra lounge open as late as 4 a.m. Fridays to Mondays,

boasts specialty drinks and gold-and-black decor; starwoodhotels.com.

#### Casa Casuarina

Sip cocktails at Casa Casuarina, the infamous residence of the late Italian fashion designer Gianni Versace. In this historic-house-turned-celebrity-compound, Versace hosted stars such as Madonna and Elton John until his untimely death in July of

1997, when he was murdered on the steps of this beach-front villa. Once a private members-only club, this 1930s landmark now welcomes tourists for dinner, cocktails and tours (offered daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at \$65 US per person); casacasuarina.com.

#### Mynt Lounge

With a tight door policy and a long list of celebrity guests, Mynt is at the top

of many trendsetters' lists. It's not easy to get into, but once beyond the velvet rope, partiers will find A-list fashionistas dancing to the beat of international DJs and breathing in the club's aromatherapy-scented air. This is a place where you must dress to impress; myntlounge.com.

#### VIP help

If you don't want to battle lineups or doormen,

SoBeVIPs, a nightlife company aimed at taking the hassle out of South Beach partying, can hook you up with club access. They offer limo transportation, VIP bottle service and party passes (a package that includes cover charge, a drink and line-up free entry before 12:30 a.m.); sobevips.com.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN; julia.dimon.com.

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## Bargains may be here to stay

U.S. online travel agencies, hungry for business in an economic recession, may extend or make permanent the booking fee cuts and waivers they implemented this year on a promotional basis. Firms like Orbitz Worldwide and Expedia Inc. suspended or reduced some of their booking fees recently. **REUTERS**

travel 19

# Yoga retreats: Getting away from it all

**When the going gets tough, the tough get centered, preferably in paradise.**

Retailers may be shutting their doors, banks may be taking stress tests, but yoga retreats are surprisingly popular now even, or especially, among the unemployed, the soon-to-be unemployed, and the fearing-to-be unemployed.

"Several people I've spoken to in the last few weeks have said, 'You know, I just lost my job and I really shouldn't be doing this, but I need this retreat so-o-o badly,'" Wesley Roeca, who runs the retreat program at YogaWorks, said in an interview.

"We were in Ojai, California, in March, and we're going to Hawaii in June," said Roeca of the approximately week-long getaways conducted by the California-based national chain. She also had a sold out retreat planned for Mexico this week, but was forced to cancel it due to the swine flu.

"Just about all of our re-



People take part in a yoga class on a capsule of the Singapore Flyer observation wheel in Singapore on April 18. The Yoga In the Sky session was held as part of Yoganamania 2009.

treats sell out," she explained. "It's a healing vacation. And in times of economic uncertainty, healing vacations offer people rejuvenation." Another plus, according to Roeca, is that the retreats are typically all-inclusive one price that includes accommodations, meals, days filled with yoga, and even some excursions. "A lot of bang for

your buck!" she said.

At Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health, located in the Berkshires town of Stockbridge, Massachusetts, spokesperson Cathy Husid-Shamir agrees that uncertain times have shifted vacation priorities.

"People these days seem uncomfortable, even guilty, about just sitting on a beach," she said. "At our

retreat center we teach the art and science of yoga to help people find health and balance. It's a learning vacation in an environment that supports it."

Kripalu, the name means grace, also offers courses on topics like stress management, health challenges, insomnia, and weight loss, as well as saunas, hiking trails, horseback riding and other activities.

As a nod to the times, Kripalu teachers have organized a tuition-free program for people who recently lost their jobs, even as the retreat prepares to open an 80-room expansion annex in June. "People want to go somewhere where we can truly get away from it all," explained Husid-Shamir.

Nevertheless, Kripalu's policy of no alcohol on the menus, no television in the rooms, and a cuisine "heavy on plant base, with limited seafood and chicken," might deter the more epicurean yogi.

For Billy Asad, a self-described "adventurer-retreat

guy," who has been organizing corporate and studio yoga getaways for 10 years, enjoyment trumps asceticism every time. "Go have a glass of wine! Go have a steak! It's OK!" he said from Los Angeles.

"I try to keep my retreats very balanced. And I like to have them in three-, four-, five-star hotels."

Asad typically combines yoga with surfing, hiking and camping adventures in faraway places like Mexico, Australia, and Bali.

He agrees these are boon

times for the all-inclusive vacation.

"I book the hotel, I do everything. This idea of 'I don't want to think beyond booking my trip' is becoming more mainstream."

People return from the holidays, he said, relaxed and in a better place.

"With the economy fears, more people are turning towards wellness," he said. "What do you do when you're in fear? Either you accept the change or you fight it."

REUTERS

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# Workology

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

## 'A detective of human injury'

Physiotherapists can help injured people live better, fuller lives

### Head to Toe

RAFAEL BRUSILOV FOR METRO CANADA

**When injuries happen, physiotherapist Victor Vongphakdy goes on the case to figure out what went wrong and why.**

The 27-year-old physiotherapist who serves clients at the Physiomed clinic in Brampton, Ont., finds the intellectual challenge of his job refreshing because it requires a strong understanding of not only how the body works but how exactly things can go wrong.

"I like to call myself a detective of human injury. I have to deduce from a wide spectrum of what clients may have and bring it down to an accurate diagnosis," Vongphakdy said.

Lower back and neck pain tend to be the most common injuries Vongphakdy sees, with a wide variety of sports injuries also topping the bill. Once he diagnoses the problem, Vongphakdy sets up a rehabilitation program and designs a training regimen aimed at strengthening the body in the right places to prevent a similar injury from happening in the future. He believes in educating clients about



their bodies to help keep them out of the clinic by training their bodies to match their physical demands.

"The amount of stress that people demand from their bodies is often more than their inherent muscle strength can handle. Education is key to winning the battle," he said.

Vongphakdy holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology as well as a

Masters in Physical Therapy and says his background in science gave him a head start in his field.

"My background in Kinesiology gave me a huge advantage because of my exposure to the sports field and knowledge of the basics of training and muscle fatigue," he said.

With plenty of face-to-face interaction with the clients he helps, Vongphakdy says it's easy to find



Physiotherapist Victor Vongphakdy poses with a model of the human spine, left. After he's figured out the cause of injury a patient has suffered, he designs a rehabilitation program for them, right.

**"I like to call myself a detective of human injury. I have to deduce from a wide spectrum of what clients may have and bring it down to an accurate diagnosis."**

Physiotherapist Victor Vongphakdy

satisfaction in his work.

"I love my job. When I come to work I'm interacting with people, I'm using my brain and I'm getting people better. It's completely satisfying," Vongphakdy

ting injured.

"Being able to bring people back to activities that they love that they couldn't do before coming in, that's what drives me. It makes want to get them there because I share that passion," he said.

An avid sports lover himself, Vongphakdy finds the most satisfaction in helping active people reclaim the ability to do those things they loved doing before get-

ting injured.

For more of the Head to Toe exclusive series check Workology frequently or stop by:

[metronews.ca/work](http://metronews.ca/work)

## Believe it or not, poor performance shouldn't affect severance

### WorkplaceLaw



**"Criticism may not be agreeable, but it is necessary."**

—WINSTON CHURCHILL

his is as true in law as it is in life, except that in employment law there is always an exception. Here is a sampling of some of the questions my

readers frequently ask and the answers I often provide.

**Performance appraisals:** Can a poor appraisal be used against you? When assessing merit, your appraisals matter. When assessing severance, they are generally irrelevant. Therefore, stars and incompetents should receive the same payouts. This is because poor performance is rarely cause for dismissal. Similarly, there is no such concept as "near cause," which means that there is no correlation between your level of performance, or lack thereof, and the quantum of severance you

will ultimately receive. If you are fired and it relates to performance, you should receive the same severance as did not.

**Restrictive covenants:** Very few employees will be held to a non-compete agreement, no matter how appropriately the clause was drafted. This is because, outside of a few key individuals, it is unfair for employers to prevent former employees from working where and for whom they so desire.

What about non-solicitation clauses? These are a different story. Courts have consistently upheld agreements not to solicit former

clients or employees after you leave, despite how important you may or may not have been.

**Employment contracts:** If there is a written contract, it must meet a number of tests. The employee must, at least, have been given the opportunity to negotiate or those terms that are punitive may not be enforced later on. This rule also applies during the course of employment, except that something of greater value must also be offered, such as a raise or a promotion. Otherwise, the courts have reasoned, an employer could unilaterally impose new terms, and an

employee would be left without the leverage to negotiate or refuse.

**Resignations:** A voluntary resignation can be a double-edged sword. If you provide advance notice of your resignation and your employer immediately asks you to leave, you are entitled to pay for the period of time you were prepared to work. However, if you immediately leave without providing notice of your resignation, your employer may be entitled to pay for the period of advance notice that you ought to have provided.

**Policy manuals:** An employer's strict reliance on

the terms and conditions in a policy manual can sometimes be a sham. Rules and regulations found in manuals are only valid to the extent they are known, have been properly distributed, previously relied upon or expressly agreed to. Judges have found that, if an employment contract cannot generally be altered after employment begins, the same rule should extend to policy manuals. Few employers will agree — but in court, a case is never open and shut.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; [dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com](mailto:dan@canadaemploymentlawyer.com).





Brooke Shields strips to down to lingerie and latex thigh-highs in a new, cougar-tastic photo spread for Australia's Kuru magazine that features her up close with a younger man, tvguide.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Celebrity Buzz

### Carmen joins burlesque show

**CAREER MOVE?** Carmen Electra is getting ready to strip down — but not completely — in a new Las Vegas show. She's set to start in July in the topless cabaret Crazy Horse at the MGM Grand.

"She's not going topless, but she will be wearing very little. She's going to wear whatever she is comfortable with," a rep for the show said, according to media reports.

Electra added: "It is such an iconic show and I was in awe after seeing it for the first time. The dancers

and the performers are so sensual and sexy."

METRO  
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NEWS

### Eminem smooths over Mimi beef

**BACKPEDAL?** Eminem has apparently smoothed over the feud he started with Nick Cannon and Mariah Carey over lyrics in one of his new songs that caused Cannon to retaliate.

"I heard about some of the things he was saying," Eminem said in an interview with BBC Radio. "I didn't read his blog or anything. But it is what it is. He's supposed to defend his wife, and I expected him to do that. But at the end of the day, it's a line I said. It's a song. What I actually meant to say is, I wish them the best. That's the whole message of the record."

METRO  
WORLD  
NEWS

### Mel's girlfriend pregnant?

**BABY MAMA DRAMA** Mel Gibson's new girlfriend is reportedly pregnant, according to femalefirst.co.uk.

The Lethal Weapon star — who already has seven children with estranged wife Robyn — and Russian singer Oksana Grigorieva are said to be expecting their first child together in the autumn.

It has been claimed Gibson, 53, has already told Robyn and their children the news, although it wasn't well-received.

A source told the National Enquirer magazine: "In late April, Mel gathered

his children at the family home in Malibu and broke the news that Oksana is pregnant, and he expects them to accept the baby as a new sibling.

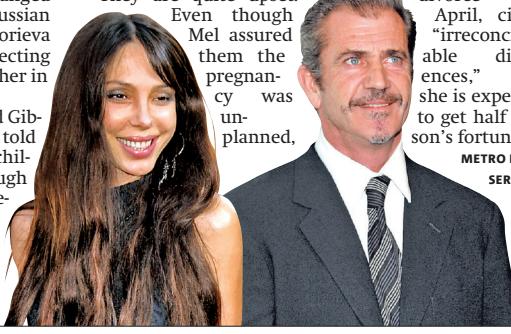
"They are quite upset. Even though Mel assured them the pregnancy was unplanned,

they're furious with him, and say they're going to take steps to protect their inheritance, which they feel is in jeopardy."

Robyn filed for divorce in April, citing "irreconcilable differences," and she is expected to get half Gibson's fortune.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES



### Marital woes sparks house sale?

**PEOPLE** LeAnn Rimes and her songwriter husband Dean Sheremet are saying goodbye to their home just outside Nashville, people.com reports.

"LeAnn and Dean's home is on the market," the singer's rep confirms of the \$7.45-million US property, which was completed in 2008 and features six bedrooms, 7½ bathrooms, plus exercise and media rooms.

The decision to sell is not related to reports that Rimes, 26, allegedly had an affair with her Lifetime TV-movie co-star Eddie Cibrian, 35, a friend of the country singer tells People.

Rimes and Sheremet, 28, are committed to their relationship, which has its ups and downs, says Rimes' friend.

"(LeAnn and Dean) are still having challenges and trying to work through them. They're working on their marriage."

On Sunday, Rimes was spotted chatting with Cibrian, 35, who's married to model Brandi Glanville, 36, at a Los Angeles Lakers basketball game. Her pal says it was not a planned meeting.

"That was totally random," says the friend. "They both just happened to be at the game."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

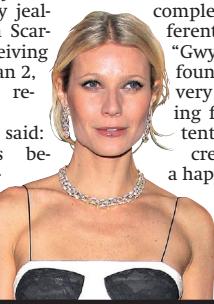


### Starlet showdown on set?

**FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT!** Gwyneth Paltrow is reportedly jealous of the attention Scarlett Johansson is receiving on the set of Iron Man 2, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

A source said: "Gwyneth has become very frustrated with Scarlett. They come from different worlds and have completely different styles. "Gwyneth has found Scarlett very demanding for the attention of the crew. It's not a happy set."

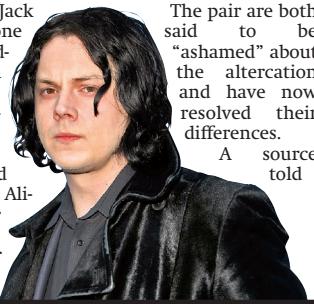
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### Tempers run high in Jack's band

**INTERNAL STRIFE** Jack White punched one of his female bandmates during an alcohol-fuelled night out, femalefirst.co.uk alleges.

The rocker reportedly hit Dead Weather partner Alison Mosshart after getting into an argument with her in a New York bar.



The pair are both said to be "ashamed" about the altercation and have now resolved their differences.

A source told

Britain's The Sun: "Jack and Alison went on a mammoth all-day session when they met up in New York. They sunk a lot of alcohol and ended up at each other's throats. It was a one-off scrap and they both feel really ashamed."

"But they are over it now and have promised each other they won't get into that state again."

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### Hilary reimagines Bonnie

**REINTERPRETATION** Hilary Duff thinks her upcoming film The Story of Bonnie and Clyde will be "beautiful," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 21-year-old singer and actress will play teenage outlaw Bonnie Parker in the new movie and says she can't wait to get started.

She said: "I'm really excited. I think it's going to be really beautiful. We're shooting in the South, and we want to

really show how hot and dry it is ... and the clothes! It's a tragic love story, and that's what we want to get across.

"People don't realize that they were, like 18 years old doing this. In the version in '67, with Faye Dunaway and Warren Beatty, they were already adults, but Bonnie and Clyde were actually teenagers. So they were very ahead of their time. They were rebels, you know?"

METRO NEWS SERVICES



### Swayze's death report false

**STILL GOING** Patrick Swayze, whose battle with pancreatic cancer was first announced last year, has not died, contrary to a false rumour that was widely circulated yesterday morning, the actor's rep tells People exclusively.

"This is to confirm that Patrick Swayze did not pass away this morning contrary to severely reckless reports stemming from a radio station in Jacksonville, Fla.," says Annett Wolf.

"Patrick Swayze is alive, well and

is enjoying his life and he continues to respond to treatment."

Since news of his disease was made public, Swayze, 56, has been the subject of speculation about his health.

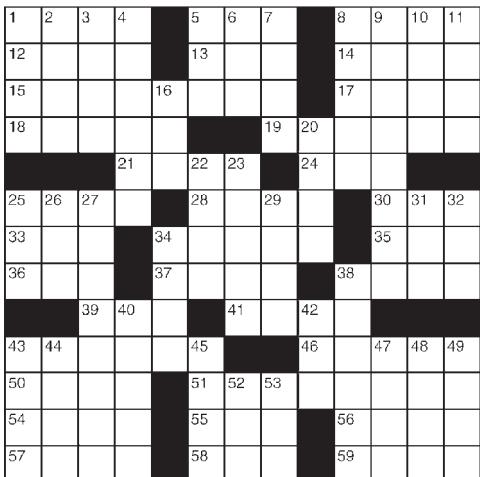
In March, he told People: "I hope in the future, the press will think twice about printing inaccuracies and painting an unpleasant picture when I have so much to be thankful for at this time."

METRO NEWS SERVICES





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For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: [metronews.ca/food](http://metronews.ca/food)

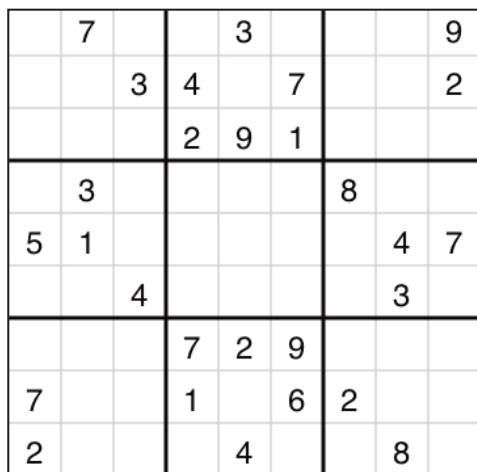
## Crossword across

1 Bottlenose kin 24 Vast expanse "helper"  
 5 Winter ailment 25 North American peninsula, as a watch  
 8 Reed 46 Expire, as a subscription  
 instrument 12 Lummox 50 Mongolian desert  
 13 —relief 28 Persia, now 51 U.S. area where industry once thrived  
 14 Industrial re- 30 Prized possession 54 Tel —  
 gion of Germany 33 Ostrich's 55 Cleo's slayer  
 15 Household 34 Pizza dough 56 Slender  
 arachnid 17 Actress Argento 35 Ms. Thurman 57 Assess  
 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 59 60

## Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

**HOW TO PLAY:** Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



## Crossword down

1 Automaker 16 Has 42 Last (Abbr.)  
 Ransom Eli — permission 43 Culture medium  
 2 Libertine 20 "Money — everything" 44 PBS science show  
 3 Point 22 Paddock papa 45 Snatch  
 4 Theseus' land 23 Have faith in 47 Rind  
 5 Grp. that 25 Plead 48 Thick chunk  
 caught Dillinger 26 Parisian pal 49 Sicilian  
 6 Long, crosser 27 Very slightly spouter  
 7 Secondehand 29 Regarding 52 — Today  
 8 Speechify 31 Comic Philips 53 Agent  
 9 Work really 32 Chart  
 hard (for) 34 Advertising  
 10 Columbus is 36 award  
 there 38 Not wobbly  
 11 History chap- 40 Breathing

## PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

L	I	E	S	G	E	M	F	A	C	E	2	4	6	3	5	8	1	7	9
A	N	T	I	U	E	I	S	N	W	O	1	5	8	2	7	9	4	3	6
S	N	A	P	P	E	R	S	H	E	R	9	7	3	1	4	6	2	8	5
H	I	E	D	R	A	W	E	R			3	8	4	5	2	1	9	6	7
S	H	O	O	T	B	E	A	R			7	1	2	9	6	3	5	4	8
T	O	R	N	F	L	A	P	P	E	S	5	6	9	4	8	7	3	1	2
E	C	O	R	A	L	S	V	I	E		8	9	1	7	3	2	6	5	4
W	R	A	P	P	E	R	S	M	E	S	6	2	5	8	1	4	7	9	3
T	A	M	A	L	E	P	E	N	E		4	3	7	6	9	5	8	2	1
A	Y	U	N	E	P	E	G												
I	C	O	N	T	R	A	P	P	E	R									
E	R	S	E	I	O	N	I	L	I	E									
R	E	S	T	C	B	S	E	L	B	E									

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 Under 13 min .....Genius 21-25 min .....Not bad  
 13-17 min .....Scholar 25+ min .....Keep practising

## Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

[sallybrompton.com](http://sallybrompton.com)

## ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20



TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21



Don't be too serious about life — have some fun. As the Sun moves into the most outgoing area of your chart today, you will easily make friends.

## LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23



SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22



A plan you have been working on in secret is now ready to be revealed. But if you leave it a few days, say until the 24th, the impact will be even greater.

## GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21



TAURUS MAY 22-JUNE 21

The sun leaves your birth sign today but that does not mean your luck is about to turn. There will be plenty of good things over the next few days.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21



The sun's transit of the partnership area of your chart over the next four weeks or so will require you to be cooperative rather than combative.

## CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22



CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 22

Cancerians are sensitive and cosmic activity around the most introverted area of your chart means it's possible you will withdraw into yourself.

## CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20



CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20

This is the ideal time to look more closely at your everyday routines and habits and think of ways you can improve and update them.

## LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23



LEO JULY 23-AUG 23

Friendships are of the utmost importance now and it is likely that you will meet someone who becomes your bosom buddy over the next few weeks.

## AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18



AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 18

The sun's entry into the most dynamic area of your chart today will give you a kick-start to get your big idea off the drawing board and on to the streets.

## VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22



VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 22

The sun's transit of the mid-heaven angle of your chart will bring new opportunities and make you aware of how much more is possible in your work.

## PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20



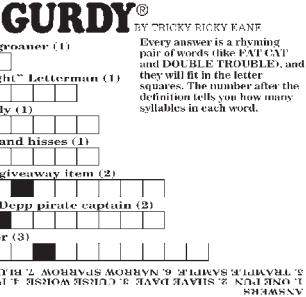
PISCES FEB 19-MARCH 20

You need to get close to someone you have drifted away from emotionally since the start of the year. Make an effort to see their point of view.

## This day in history

MAY 20, 1832: The Rideau Canal in eastern Ontario is opened.  
 MAY 20, 1883: In New York City, a rumor that the Brooklyn Bridge is going to collapse causes a stampede that crushes 12 people.  
 MAY 20, 1913: First Balkan War: the Treaty of London, 1913 is signed ending the war. Albania becomes an independent nation.  
 MAY 20, 1922: In Washington, D.C. the Lincoln Memorial is dedicated.  
 MAY 20, 1967: At the Ascot Park in Gardena, California, daredevil Evel Knievel jumps his motorcycle over 16 cars lined up in a row.  
 MAY 20, 1982: Spain becomes the 16th member of NATO.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



## entertainment 23

## Take Five

## Metro Recipe of the Day



## Grandma Margaret's Barley Soup

1 tsp (5 ml) dried rosemary leaves

## METHOD:

- In large pot, combine broth, green beans, potato, onion, carrots, bay leaves, salt and pepper. Bring to boil. Lower heat and simmer, covered, until vegetables are almost tender, 20 minutes.
- Stir in beef, tomatoes, barley and rosemary. Bring to boil. Lower heat and simmer, covered, until barley is tender, 15 minutes. Discard bay leaves.

SERVES 6

## rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to [rd.ca](http://rd.ca) or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



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